

09/762457

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: ) February 6, 2001  
)  
Richard James Salisbury )  
)  
Serial No. (unknown) )  
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Filed Herewith )  
)  
BONDING LIGNOCELLULOSIC )  
MATERIALS )  
)  
US National Stage of PCT/GB99/02420 )  
International Filing Date August 6, 1999 )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified patent application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 wherein the maleic acid and/or maleic anhydride is applied to the lignocellulosic material separately of application of the resin.

"Express Mail" label number EL683235691US. Date of Deposit February 6, 2001. I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks, 2900 Crystal Dr., Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513.

*Chie Mercer*  
Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence